

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 and 10-15 are pending in this application. Non-elected claims 2-7 and 10-13 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. By this Amendment, claim 14 is amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the specification. See page 7, line 20-page 9, line 17; and page 15, line 10-page 16, line 24. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Davis during the telephone interview held September 10, 2008, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP 2002-008209 to Ishii et al. ("Ishii") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,873,599 to Sueoka ("Sueoka"). Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, Applicants amend claim 14 to recite "a return yoke layer disposed so as to be exposed to a recording-medium-facing surface facing a recording medium; a yoke layer disposed between the return yolk layer and a main pole so as to be recessed from the recording-medium-facing surface; and the main pole disposed so as to be exposed to the recording-medium-facing surface.

Despite its asserted disclosures, Ishii does not teach or suggest a magnetic recording head with the configuration as recited in amended claim 14. Furthermore, Ishii does not teach or suggest the benefits derived from the particular configuration of amended claim 14, for example, an ability to control the magnetic flux from the yolk layer to the main pole and the desirable result of thus preventing information from being overwritten unintentionally. See page 6, line 23-page 7, line 2.

Sueoka fails to cure the deficiencies of Ishii. Therefore, Ishii and Sueoka, either separately or combined, do not render obvious the magnetic recording head of claim 14.

Claim 14 would not have been rendered obvious by Ishii and Sueoka. Claim 15 depends from claim 14 and, thus, also would not have been rendered obvious by Ishii and Sueoka for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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